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1. In the areas best known [redacted] (Ber un, Prague), health conditions in general were good. [redacted] the following comments on infectious diseases:

(a) Malaria was rare and occurred only in returned PWs . 25X1

(b) Typhus was absent except for an epidemic which broke out in 1945 in former Jewish concentration camps and spread to the population. It was brought under control in 1945.

(c) Tuberculosis was found in industrial areas, e.g. Prague and Ber un, with incidence up to 20 per cent. Immunization with BCG vaccine was obligatory. No streptomycin was available, and this fact caused considerable ill-feeling towards America which refused to export it to Czechoslovakia. The technique of streptomycin therapy for tuberculosis was not known to the average Czech physician. Conteben or tibione was not known [redacted], at least under those names. TB therapy was conservative. 25X1

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(d) Hepatitis epidemica was frequently encountered in Prague in 1951.

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(e) Venereal diseases, especially gonorrhoea, have shown a strong increase since 1945. [REDACTED] 25X1

[REDACTED] the incidence of syphilis in Soviet citizens was low, [REDACTED] the Soviets had a greater immunity to the so-called "Asiatic" syphilis. Spiromovan and Alubi (Czech equivalents of salvarsan and bimosol) were used to treat syphilis; penicillin was employed in treating gonorrhoea.

(f) Dysentery was rarely encountered. 25X1

(g) Trachoma was absent.

(h) Typhoid and paratyphoid occurrence was rare. Sewage systems occasionally broke down during the summer and caused some concern but no serious disease problem.

(i) Scabies was rare except in prison camps.

(j) No deficiency diseases occurred although the food supply was poor.

(k) Diphtheria was encountered, but it was never serious because of the availability of control serum.

(l) Influenza was no problem, except in 1946, when a serious epidemic led to the closing of schools.

(m) Ascariasis and taenia infestation were common in many areas because of the inclination of the farmers to use human excreta for fertilizing green vegetables.

(n) No other infectious disease was a problem.

2. Animal diseases noted [REDACTED] were foot and mouth disease which was a constant problem, and tularemia which was epizootic in 1943-44 in the southern part of the country. [REDACTED] tularemia also occurred in Germany at that time. It has not broken out since 1944 in Czechoslovakia. Swine erysipelas occurred occasionally [REDACTED] 25X1

3. No plant diseases were recalled other than an "eczema". During the potato-beetle scourge, which was severest in the Sudetenland, the Soviets used planes for spraying the fields in an attempt to wipe out the bugs. Americans were accused of introducing these beetles as a BW effort. Continual propaganda efforts were made up to 1951 to establish the USA as waging BW. 25X1

MEDICAL SCHOOLS AND TRAINING

4. Medical schools were available before the end of World War II in Prague, Brno, and Bratislava, but medical faculties are now found in Kosice, Bratislava, Olomouc, Hradec-Kralove, Brno, Plzen, and Prague. In Prague, the Ceska Universita Praha now combines the former German Charles University and the Czech Ferdinand University.

5. Military medical academies are located in Brno and Hradec-Kralove, quite distinct from the civilian medical faculties there.

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6. [] the curriculum had been reduced from six years to four years in order to speed up the training of doctors.

7. Dental specialists were university trained in medical subjects. Dental technicians, however, who were called "dentists", received only a technical school education for two years and did not get university training.

8. Nurses received their training in hospitals but were examined by a university staff. Two years of training were required for a diploma. Practical nurses or Red Cross aides received less than two months training.

9. [] no facilities were available for medical research except in the universities, and university clinics. There were no institutes solely for the purpose of research, outside of the university installations. In Havlickuv Brod, a special apparatus was available for taking x-ray pictures in serial layers. [] the instrument was U.S. made and was worth about \$50,000. Another instrument like it was available in Prague, and also in Bratislava.

HOSPITALS

10. Beroun. The civil hospital in Beroun was located in a wooded area about one-half hour's walk from the center of town. The entire complex had about 500 beds, distributed in several pavilions around a large park. The surgery and gynecology sections as well as facilities for ENT were in one 3-story brick building, 100 m x 20 m; five operating rooms were available here, two of which were quite large. The sections for children, general medicine, and infectious diseases were in separate buildings. That for infectious diseases was located in a former school within the city but it was planned to remove it to the hospital complex.

Members of the staff of the Beroun civil hospital were all Czechs in 1951

[]

The nurses in the Beroun civil hospital had been Catholic nuns of the order of St. Charles Borromeo. These nuns came from Prague and had no ownership rights at the hospital. They were displaced by civilian nurses after the Communist coup.

Although the hospital was partly used by the Germans during the war, it had suffered no damage.

Beroun also had a military hospital located in the middle of the city, exact address unknown. It had a capacity of 150 beds and was in a 2-story brick building which resembled a barrack. A military garrison was stationed in the city, and patients were obtained from this garrison and from a 30-kilometer radius around the city. Sections included infectious disease, surgery, and internal medicine.

11. Pardubice. A civilian hospital in Pardubice was especially good, having been built within the last ten years. It had a capacity of 800 beds, distributed as in Beroun among several pavilions situated in a park area. The internal section had 400-500 beds. The complex was located on the highest point in the city, about 1 kilometer from the railroad station on the right hand side of the road when traveling from Pardubice to Kolin.

One hundred meters from the hospital, on the same grounds but fenced off from the hospital, were the Pardubice water reservoirs.

Pardubice had several military hospitals with capacity for 200-300 beds each. These were in the southern section of town, on the edge of the city, at a distance from the railroad track.

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12. Litoměřice. Litoměřice had a civil hospital with separate sections for surgery, internal medicine and infectious disease. Two military hospitals were also located in the city. A large garrison in the town was housed in eight or ten barracks.

13. Terezin. Terezin had a very large 4-story, modern military hospital, with a 500 bed capacity. The city was primarily a garrison city.

14. Chrudim. Chrudim also had a military hospital.

15. Hospital laboratories were staffed with medical assistants after they had received two years of training in a university, one year for theoretical subjects and one year for practical training; after these two years, a diploma was issued to the graduates.

16. [] psychiatric hospitals were located in Motol near Prague, in Havlickuv Brod, in Kromeriz, and in Cernovice near Brno.

PHARMACEUTICALS

17. Drugs were generally in short supply in the country []

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18. Pharmaceutical factories are located in Podmokly, Pardubice, Usti nad Labem, and Prague. There was an administrative organization called Spofa which marketed drugs made in the various plants.

19. [] penicillin made and packaged at Roztoky (as indicated on the label of the package). The material was a white powder, subject to changes in color to a yellowish tint. Other forms of penicillin manufactured at Roztoky were penicillin-in-oil and procaine-penicillin.

20. Penicillin manufacturing facilities now at Roztoky were alleged to be sufficiently extensive to produce enough penicillin in one month to supply Czechoslovakia's yearly needs.

21. The plant lies west of the Vltava (Moldau) River and employs more than 1000 workers, largely women. It manufactured penicillin as early as 1948, []

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22. The present output was used in every hospital with good results. It was difficult to obtain, and normal distribution was to hospitals only. The average doctor, to obtain penicillin, had to go to the local health office and establish justification for receiving the drug, i.e. he had to show a need for the coming year on the basis of patient load.

23. The penicillin could not be bought in a pharmacy since the drug was rationed to hospitals on a yearly basis. [] penicillin was also exported to the satellite countries and to the USSR.

24. Penicillin was allegedly also produced in Caslav and Chrast, in plants formerly privately operated. In Chrast the manufacturer was said to be the former Dr. Heissler Werke² which manufactured morphine and anti-neuritic drugs.

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25. Concerning storage of medical items, [] medical depots as part of general storage depots were set up in major cities with the intention that they would be taken over by the army for use in case of emergency.

MISCELLANEOUS

26. The food supply was rather low. Since 1949 the country had been packing all kinds of food in tins, particularly meat. It was thought that this packing process was designed for building up a stockpile of food, since the people were still rationed. It was alleged that food was also being shipped to the USSR.

27. In September 1951 all men in prisons and in labor camps were examined by military medical officers. The impression was strong that these prisoners were being examined for induction into labor battalions in case of war.

28. Blood donations were strongly encouraged by the Ministry of Public Health. This blood was regularly collected in the public health offices which were found in every little town. Constant propaganda was carried on to induce more people to become donors. The collected blood was sent from the various points to the central collection point at the Prague university medical clinic. It was officially announced that some blood had been sent to Korea, but propaganda stressed the point that the need for continued donations was not for Korea only.

29. The water supply in Prague is considered poor [] stressed the constant need for chlorination of the water there. Swimming was prohibited in the Vltava River because of pollution, caused by sewage effluent. The largest water works in Prague is located in the Vinohrady district, which is also the highest point in the city. Another water works is located in the Letna district across the Vltava River from Vinohrady.

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1. [] Comment. It is probably not true that an "Asiatic form" of syphilis exists. The low incidence of syphilis in the Soviet people, who are certainly susceptible to syphilis, is attributable to the rigid Soviet control methods before W. II.

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2. [] Comment. The 1947 telephone directory for Bohemia listed United Pharmaceutical Plants (Spojene farmaceuticke zavody), national corporation, Chrast plant (Dr. Eng. R. Heisler), at Chrast (J 50/11 87) near Chrudin.

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